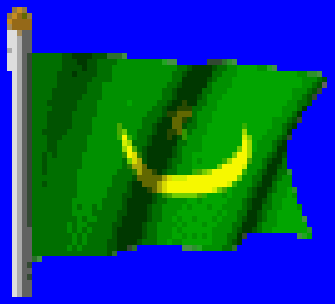
TRAVELER'S BRIEFING



MAURITANIA

l Jumhuriyah al Islamiyah Muritaniyah)

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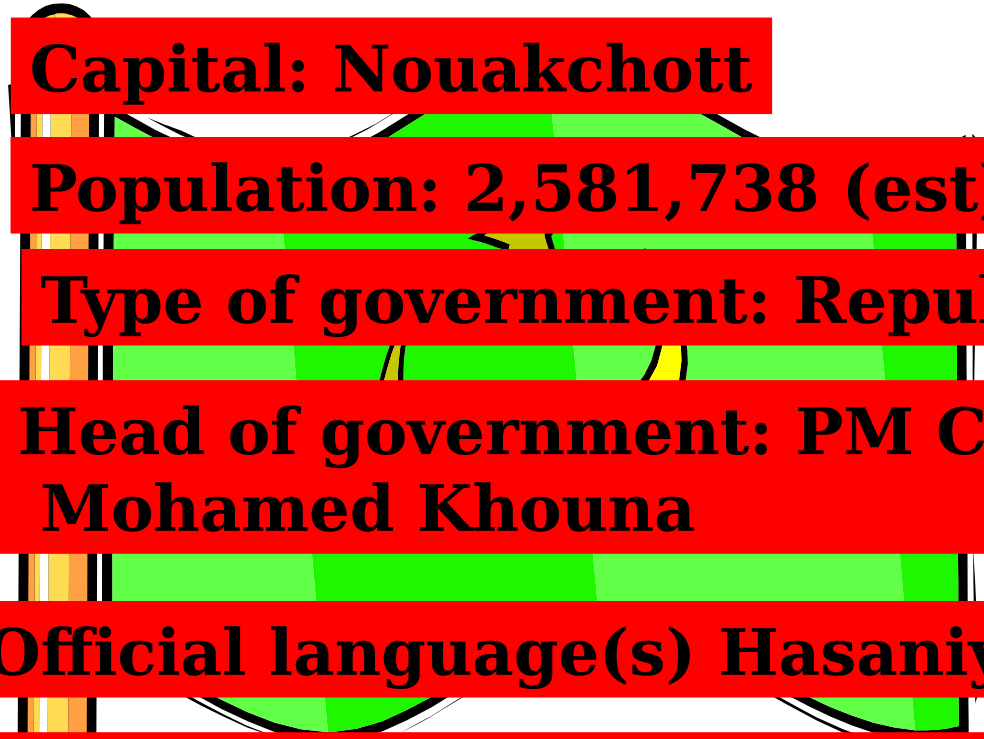
BACKGROUND



Full Name: Islamic Republic of Maurita

Capital: Nouakchott

Population: 2,581,738 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: PM Cheikel Afia O
Mohamed Khouna

Official language(s) Hasaniya Arabic, Fre

Economy: Agricultural based, some production in cities

Religions: Islam (100%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None.

International Airport: Nouakchott

Flights from Frankfurt: None

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: The Amembassy is located between the Presidency Building and the Spanish Embassy, Nouakchott Tel: 222-2-526-60 FAX: 222-2-515-92

Transportation: Public transportation: Poor.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Fair.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor. Road conditions in Mauritania are generally poor, particularly in the interior, and overland travel is difficult.

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: Military personnel on leave require passports and visas and proof of sufficient funds. Military personnel on leave do not require clearance or advance notice. Amembassy recommends all US citizens in Mauritania register at the Embassy in Nouakchott. Communications are poor. Passports and visas are required for all travelers, including aircrew members (except aircrew members who do not leave airport). For official travel, no-fee passports are

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required.

Duty-free entry for personal effects: Cigarettes are subject to heavy duty.

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Reservations should normally be made at least one week in advance as hotel accommodations are limited and often booked up. Surface travel between Mauritania and Senegal is restricted to various designated border crossing-points: N'Diago, Diama, Rosso, Jerd El Mohguen, Tekane, Lekseiba, Boghe in the Brakna, M'Bagne and Kaedi in Gorgol, Tifounde Cive, Maghama and Goraye in Guidimaka.

Amembassy operates Sun thru Thu, 0730-1600Z. The Amembassy observes US and local holidays.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Local currency may not be imported or exported. Credit cards other than American Express are not accepted in Mauritania and American Express cards can only be used at a few hotels in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. .

Rate: Approximate: 235 Maurtianian Ouguiya for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, malaria, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs, and heat injuries.

Availability of medical services: Poor.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Mauritania. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be

Status of hospitals: Poor

Health Precautions: Malaria prophylaxis and vaccination against hepatitis A and B, tetanus, diphtheria, polio, typhoid, and meningococal meningitis are recommended. Mauritania is considered a cholera-infected area. Yellow fever vaccination required of all travelers over one year of age. EXCEPTION: Travelers arriving from non-infected areas and staying less

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, MMR, yellow fever, typhoid, influenza, and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Mauritania. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Surface travel between Mauritania and Western Sahara is dangerous because of the conflict between Morocco and the Polisario Movement. Travelers are at risk in being caught up in hostilities. There are reports of thousands of unexploded mines in the Mauritania/Western Sahara border areas. Boil all water or purify with tablets unless one purchases bottled water for drinking. Use canned or dried milk. Wash fruits and vegetables with disinfectant. Antimalarial drugs should be taken regularly. Due to heightened security concerns, travelers in Nouakchott, the capital, are advised to avoid establishments known to be frequented by Americans. The beach area around Nouakchott should be avoided at night. There are four major roads, each of which links important cities in Mauritania: Nouakchott and Rosso; Nouakchott and

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Crime, while not high, is rising. Most incidents involve petty crime, such as pickpocketing and other crimes of opportunity, often resulting from improperly secured valuables left in vehicles in plain sight. Residential burglaries, robberies, and assaults also occur. Violent crimes and crimes involving use of weapons are rare, but are on the rise. In remote areas, hiring a vehicle and driver is advisable. If you rent a vehicle, keep all doors and windows closed and locked while driving. Although U.S. citizens for the most part are welcomed in Mauritania, there were some reports of anti-American incidents (threats and stoning of vehicles) following the 1998 U.S. and British intervention in Iraq. Some Muslim extremists have sometimes perceived Christian non-governmental organizations as a threat. However, political violence and religious extremist groups are closely monitored

Mauritania is strict on: Drugs.

U.S. interests in Mauritania. The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Conservative dress code is required. Women are expected to wear garments with sleeves and the dress must cover the knees. Shorts are not permitted. The coolest clothing possible should be taken. Lightweight fall clothing is needed for cool winter evenings.

Courtesy of United Nations Photo Unit

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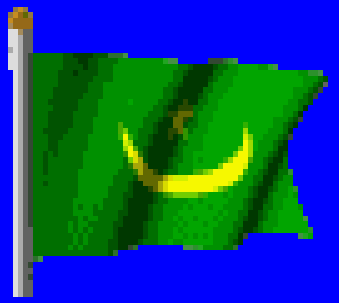
This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for



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